(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project (3 x 50 = 150 MW) located in the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong Districts of Assam envisages construction of a 71.35 mtrs. high concrete gravity dam across Kopili river. The impounded water is proposed to be fed through a 7.5 mtr. dia. and 3.564 Km long head race tunnel to a semi-underground indoor type power house with installation of 3 Units of 50 MW each. The project has been identified to be executed as a Central sector project by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) for benefits during 10th Five Year Plan. The investment approval for the Project will be accorded by Central Government after completion of modalities like signing of Memorandum of Understanding between State Government of Assam and NEEPCO and obtaining techno-economic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority and other statutory clearances etc. by NEEPCO.

Joint Power Sector Projects in Collaboration with Financial Institutions

2592. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some financial institutions are keen to make investment in the power sector;

(b) whether they propose to set up joint sector projects;

(c) if so, the names of financial institutions keen to make investment in the, private/public sector power projects; and

(d) the details of the projects identified in the public/private sector for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Indian Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Banks are the main lenders for financing the private power projects in the country. Even though the financial institutions by themselves are not setting | up joint sector power projects, some of i them are participating in the form of fund based/non-fund based assistance for setting up power projects in the private sector. The identification by the IFIs of the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) who would be receiving financial assistance depends, inter-alia, on the latters receiving the requisite security packages like Letter of Credit, Escrow facility and State Guarantee from the concerned State Governments for timely payment of IPPs dues by the State Electricity Boards for energy consumed by them.

Constitution of SAARC Power Grid

2593. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a SAARC power grid in the subcontinent;

(b) if so, whether consent of all the SAARC countries has been obtained; and

(c) if so, when this grid is likely to come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for setting up electrical interconnections between India and neighbouring countries. Electrical interconnections with Nepal and Bhutan are already in existence. Bilateral discussions are being held for setting up interconnections with Bangladesh and Pakistan.